

Happy Holidays



On Top Of The News

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Friday, December 18, 2009



INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

DRUG WARS



Soldiers stand guard near an apartment complex in Cuernavaca, Mexico, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009. A Mexican navy official said alleged drug cartel chief Arturo Beltran Leyva was killed in a shootout with sailors Wednesday.

Read more on Page A6

SPORTS NEWS

HENRY OBIT

In this Oct. 4, 2009, file photo, Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chris Henry looks on during pre-game warmups against the Cleveland Browns in an NFL football game in Cleveland. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police say Henry has died Thursday Dec. 17, 2009, one day after suffering serious injuries upon falling out of the back of a pickup truck in what authorities describe as a domestic dispute with his fiancee. Henry was 26.

Read more on Page A12

Venezuela's Chavez sees U.S. threat in Dutch islands



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez gestures during the graduation ceremony of students of a government education program in Caracas, Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009.

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is accusing the Netherlands of letting the U.S. military use Dutch islands off his country's Caribbean coast to prepare a possible attack against his government.

Chavez says the U.S. military has deployed intelligence agents along with warships and spy planes to Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire, which are self-governing Dutch islands.

He hasn't given evidence, but is blaming the Netherlands and says the European Union should take a stance.

Chavez claims it's part of a broader plan by Washington to undermine left-leaning governments throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

During a speech Thursday at a 193-nation climate change conference, Chavez said he "would like to know what the European Union has to say about this."

Holdout Neb. Senator Nelson rejects abortion compromise

By ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A moderate Democrat whose vote could be crucial said Thursday an attempted Senate compromise on abortion is unsatisfactory, raising doubts about whether the chamber can pass President Barack Obama's health care overhaul by Christmas.

"As it is, without modifications, the language concerning abortion is not sufficient," Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson, a key holdout on the health care bill, said in a statement after first making his concerns known to Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Nelson said there were positive improvements dealing with teen pregnancy and adoption, and that he was open to further negotiations. But in a radio interview earlier in the day with KLIN in Lincoln, Nebraska,



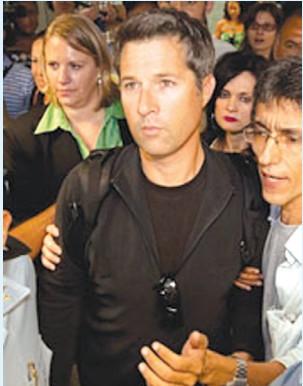
In this photo provided by CBS, Sens. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., left, Ben Nelson, D-Neb., center, and Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., prepare to leave after appearing on CBS's "Face the Nation" in Washington, Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009.

Associated Press

Nelson also said that abortion wasn't his only concern and he didn't see how the Christmas deadline was achievable.

The development came with Senate leaders working round the clock trying to finalize their 10-year, nearly \$1 trillion bill in time for a final vote on Christmas Eve.

Continued on page 4



U.S. citizen David Goldman, left, arrives at Rio de Janeiro's airport Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009.

Associated Press

Brazil's top court halts boy's return to U.S. dad

BRADLEY BROOKS

Associated Press Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's Supreme Court on Thursday delayed the return of a 9-year-old boy to his U.S. father only hours after the man arrived from New Jersey in hopes of taking the boy home for Christmas.

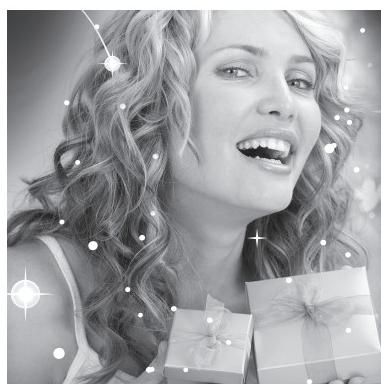
The court ruled the child must stay in Brazil while it considers a request that his own testimony be heard in the case, which has dragged on for five years.

Continued on page 8



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Pentagon: Insurgents intercepted drone spy videos

PAULINE JELINEK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Insurgents in Iraq have hacked into live video feeds from Predator drones, a major weapon in a Pentagon spy system that serves as the military's eyes in the sky for surveillance and intelligence collection.

Although militants could see the video, there is no evidence they were able to jam the electronic signals from the unmanned aerial craft or take control of the vehicles, a senior defense official said Thursday, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence.

Obtaining the video feeds can provide insurgents with critical information about what the military may be targeting, including buildings, roads and other facilities.



This undated handout photo provided by the U.S. Air Force shows a MQ-9 Reaper, armed with GBU-12 Paveway II laser guided munitions and AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, piloted by Col. Lex Turner during a combat mission over southern Afghanistan.

Associated Press



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Shiite fighters in Iraq used off-the-shelf software programs such as SkyGrabber, available for as little as \$25.95 on the Internet, to capture drone video feeds regularly, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday. The hacking was possible because the remotely flown planes had unprotected communications links.

The Defense Department has dealt with the problem, first discovered a year ago, and is working to encrypt all its drone video feeds from Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, defense officials said. One defense official noted that upgrading the encryption in the drones is a lengthy process because at least 600 unmanned vehicles are in use along with thousands of ground stations.

Official said that systems in principal threat areas were upgraded first.

Air Force Lt. Gen. David Deptula, deputy chief of staff for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, said this week that hacking is always a worry. "Anytime you have a system that is operated through command links, and that broadcasts information using omnidirectional signals, those are subject to listening and exploitation," said Deptula. "One of the ways we deal with that is encrypting signals."

Dale Meyerrose, former chief information officer for the U.S. intelligence community, compared the problem to street

criminals listening to police scanners.

"This was just one of the signals, a broadcast signal, and there was no hacking; it is the interception of a broadcast signal," said Meyerrose, who worked to field the unmanned systems in the 1990s, when he was a senior Air Force officer.

The problem, he said, is that when the drones were first being developed they were using commercial equipment, which as time goes on could become vulnerable to intercepts.

The Predator, also crucial to the war in Afghanistan and the hunt for al-Qaida and other militants in neighboring Pakistan, can fly for hours remotely controlled by pilots thousands of miles away. It can fly armed or unarmed and is part of a growing arsenal of such craft that includes the Reaper and Raven as well as a new, high-tech video sensor system called the Gorgon Stare, being installed on Reapers.

The military has known about the vulnerability for more than a decade, but assumed adversaries would not be able to exploit it.

Then in December 2008, the military apprehended a Shiite militant in Iraq whose laptop contained files of intercepted drone video feeds, the Journal reported. In July, they found pirated feeds on other militant laptops, leading some officials to conclude that groups trained and

funded by Iran were regularly intercepting feeds and sharing them with multiple extremist groups.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates asked the Pentagon's intelligence chief, James R. Clapper Jr., to look into the problem and coordinate the work to deal with it. Officials said that when the intercepts were discovered in July 2008, it raised worries, but technical adjustments were not difficult and were put in motion quickly.

The hacking is just another example of how formidable and inventive the extremists can be. The United States has spent billions of dollars, for instance, fighting homemade bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan, the No. 1 killer of troops and weapon of choice by militants who have easy access to the materials needed to make them and use modern telecommunications networks to exchange information about how to improve them.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the military continually evaluates the technologies it uses and quickly corrects any vulnerabilities found.

Whitman said there were no plans to pull back on the military's use of technologies like drones, because they provide invaluable benefits to commanders.

"There's potential vulnerabilities in all of our systems," he said.



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Judge: Gangs more deadly than some Gitmo detainees



Chief Judge Royce C. Lamberth of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia talks about trying terrorists in Article III Courts, during an address to the Standing Committee on Law and National Security at the The University Club in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009.

Associated Press

DEVLIN BARRETT
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The chief judge of the federal court in Washington told lawyers Thursday that domestic street gangs are more deadly than some Guantanamo Bay detainees who could face trial in U.S. courts.

Judge Royce Lamberth was speaking at an American Bar Association breakfast about Attorney General Eric Holder's recent decision to put the reputed Sept. 11 mastermind and four accused henchmen on trial in New York federal court.

Lamberth didn't refer specifically to those five in his comments, but rejected the suggestion made by some critics of Holder's decision that U.S. courts cannot secure defendants like terror suspects held at Guantanamo.

"The gangs are more murderous, I think, than some of these people at

Guantanamo," Lamberth said. "They've certainly killed their share of witnesses here."

Lamberth presided over a 2004 trial in which six members of a gang called Murder Inc. were accused of killing at least 31 people, including witnesses to the gang's crimes. It was one of New York's longest and most tightly guarded trials. The judge and jury were protected by bulletproof glass.

President Barack Obama has ordered the federal government to acquire an underused state prison in rural Illinois to be the new home for a limited number of terror suspects now held at Guantanamo. The federal government will transform the site into a prison that exceeds the most stringent security standards, officials said this week.

Lamberth said he does not want to get into a political debate about whether detainees should be tried in military commissions or

civilian courts, but he insisted the court system can handle whatever cases it gets.

"Federal courts are very capable of doing this," Lamberth said.

Some critics of Holder's decision argue that such trials will expose national security secrets to enemy terrorists. But Lamberth argued a trial judge can sort through the classified information in secret before anything is aired in a public courtroom.

Stewart Baker, a former Bush administration homeland security official who attended Lamberth's speech, said afterward he was not convinced on that point.

Such a trial "creates this massive hydraulic pressure to declassify information," said Baker. "We can always do something. Whether you can really protect national security fully is really an open question."

Lamberth said he "bristled" when he heard Holder predict that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the four others will be convicted, and bristled again when defense lawyers spoke publicly about the case becoming a "show trial."

The judge suggested a gag order could be imposed on all the lawyers in any such case

to keep the proceedings from getting out of hand.

He also said that it is possible defendants will use the trial to launch anti-American invective, but said: "It's a free country. I don't think that that can be prevented and I think families have to understand that in a free country those things can happen."

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Continued from front page



In this Jan. 30, 2008 file photo, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean testifies before the legislature in Montpelier, Vt. Dean argued Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009, that the health care overhaul bill taking shape in the Senate further empowers private insurers at the expense of consumer choice.

Associated Press

Nelson is emerging as a major obstacle — perhaps the only remaining one — since Democrats need his vote to have the 60 necessary to overcome Republican stalling tactics.

"Senator Reid will continue to work with Senator Nelson and other senators as we work to get 60 votes," said Reid spokesman Jim Manley.

At the same time, liberals were criticizing the Senate bill for lacking a government-run insurance option, with former Democratic Party Chairman Howard Dean calling the measure a boon for insurance companies. Andrew Stern, head of the 2.1 million-member Service Employees International Union, said he was deeply disappointed in the bill but stopped short of urging rejection.

The Obama administration and its allies — including former President Bill Clinton — pushed back on the criticism. Clinton said that while the bill isn't perfect, inaction would be a mistake.

"Allowing this effort to fall short now would be a colossal blunder, both politically for our party and, far more important, for the physical, fiscal, and economic health of our country," he said in a statement in which he alluded to his own failed effort to remake health care in the 1990s.

The attempted abortion compromise offered to Nelson was written by another anti-abortion Democrat, Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, among others, and was an attempt to secure Nelson's support for the health care bill while also keeping liberals on board. It's the Democrats' latest

attempt to strictly separate public and private money that could pay for abortion coverage under a remade health care system in which many lower-income people would be using new federal subsidies to buy health insurance.

Several previous attempts have been dismissed by Roman Catholic bishops and anti-abortion groups as accounting gimmicks, and this one looks like it may fare no better. The language has not been made public but is already drawing criticism from outside groups.

Speaking to reporters, Casey declined to directly address Nelson's objections but said he would keep trying for a compromise.

"We're trying to get this right," Casey said. "I've had ideas on the table for a while now, I'm still working through them and we'll keep talking to anyone who wants to discuss it."

According to Casey, the proposed compromise included a two-year increase, from \$10,000 to \$11,000, in an adoption tax credit; \$250 million over 10 years in new funding to help pregnant teens and others with alternatives to abortion and stronger "conscience clause" language to give protections to health care providers who don't want to perform abortions. Casey declined to go into additional

detail, but according to anti-abortion groups and others briefed on the language, another element would allow individuals opposed to abortion to seek assurances that none of their premium dollars would pay for that service.

That provision, in particular, angered anti-abortion activists.

Julie Schmit-Albin, executive director of Nebraska Right to Life, said that in her understanding the new language "still allows federal subsidies for plans that cover abortion on demand, which is entirely unacceptable."

"The proposed opt-out clause is particularly offensive," Schmit-Albin said. "The federal government would treat abortion on demand as if it was really health care, and then allow people to apply for status as conscientious objectors? Give me a break."

The abortion issue also threatened to derail health care legislation in the House, before Speaker Nancy Pelosi agreed to the demands of anti-abortion Democrats, who added stringent restrictions to the bill that infuriated liberals.

In the House bill, any health plan that receives any federal subsidies could not offer abortion coverage. The Senate language as filed — and apparently under the attempted compromise — would allow federal subsidies to go to health plans that offer abortion coverage but would attempt to ensure that only private money went for the procedures.

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Mexican navy kills top cartel kingpin in shootout



Soldiers arrive near an apartment complex in Cuernavaca, Mexico, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009. A Mexican navy official said alleged drug cartel chief Arturo Beltran Leyva was killed in a shootout with sailors Wednesday.

Associated Press

ALEXANDRA OLSON

OSWALD ALONSO

Associated Press Writers

CUERNAVACA, Mexico (AP) —

Two hundred Mexican Navy marines stormed an upscale apartment complex and killed a reputed drug cartel chief in a two-hour gunbattle, one of the biggest victories yet in President Felipe Calderon's drug war.

Arturo Beltran Leyva, the "boss of bosses," and six members of his cartel died in the shootout Wednesday in Cuernavaca, just south of Mexico City, according to a navy statement Thursday.

The body of one cartel member was found on the ground outside the third-floor apartment, after he apparently committed suicide during the shootout.

Cartel gunmen hurled grenades that killed one marine and wounded two others, one of whom is in serious condition, the navy said. Two women and one man were detained during the raid, and five assault weapons were seized.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene heard at least 10 explosions during the firefight,

which residents said lasted at least 90 minutes. Witnesses said the raid began when marines rappelled down ropes onto the roofs of some of the apartment buildings at dusk.

Reporters were briefly allowed inside the apartment where Beltran Leyva's body still lay early Thursday; his skull and one arm were mangled by bullet wounds, and in one hand he clutched a large gold-colored medallion.

"First they were asked to surrender, but they didn't yield and they opened fire," said one of the ski-masked marines who participated in the raid, and who was not authorized to give his name.

President Felipe Calderon, speaking from the Copenhagen climate summit, said "this action represents an important achievement for the government and people of Mexico, and a resounding blow against one of the most dangerous criminal organizations in Mexico, and on the continent."

Calderon described Beltran Leyva as "one of the three most-wanted"

drug suspects in Mexico. By most estimates, the other two — both still at large — are Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada.

Residents of the apartment complex said the raid appeared carefully planned. Sailors went door-to-door before the gun battle to quietly evacuate residents to the gym.

Beltran Leyva is the highest-ranking figure taken down under Calderon, who has deployed more than 45,000 troops across Mexico to crush the cartels since taking office in December 2006.

Mexico's navy often has been used in the battle as well. The offensive has earned Calderon praise from Washington even as 14,000 people have been killed in a wave of drug-related violence.

Beltran Leyva had narrowly escaped attempts to arrest him in recent months, including a Friday raid on an alleged drug cartel holiday party at mansion in the town of Tepotzlan, near Cuernavaca, where they killed three alleged Beltran Leyva cartel members and detained 11. They also detained Ramon Ayala, a Texas-based norteno singer whose band was playing at the party, on suspicion of ties to organized crime. His lawyer, Adolfo Vega, denied Ayala had ties to the Beltran Leyva gang, saying the singer didn't know his clients were drug traffickers.

The last time Mexican authorities killed a major drug lord was in 2002, when Ramon Arellano Felix of the Tijuana Cartel was shot by a police officer in the Sinaloa resort of Mazatlan.

Beltran Leyva was one of five brothers from the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa who once worked side by side with Guzman, the leader of the Sinaloa Cartel. The brothers split with Guzman several years ago and aligned themselves with Los Zetas, a group of former soldiers hired by the rival Gulf Cartel as hit men.

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Vatican defrocks African archbishop for defiance



In this Jan. 29, 2009 file photo Anna Sung, right, wife of the Zambian prelate Emmanuel Milingo, approaches her husband during the taping of a television show in Milan, Italy.

Associated Press

FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican moved Thursday to thwart renegade African Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo from ordaining more bishops in defiance of the pope, stripping him of his priestly functions so any future ordinations by him would be invalid.

The Zambian monsignor has long been a problem for Rome. He angered the Vatican when he was married in 2001 to a South Korean woman by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon of the Unification Church.

He was excommunicated in 2006 after installing four married men as bishops in defiance of the Roman Catholic Church requirement that its clergy be celibate.

Despite that harsh punishment by the Vatican, Milingo, now 79, kept ordaining new bishops.

Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi told reporters Thursday he was unsure just how many bishops, although it appeared about three men were elevated to bishop's rank recently by the African churchman.

Another Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Ciro Benedettini, said although Milingo was excommunicated, any ordinations he performed were "illicit but

valid" because he hadn't lost his priestly functions.

That meant if the ordinations continued, and the illicitly ordained bishops in turn began ordaining more bishops, the Vatican would run the risk of seeing Milingo's followers, who advocate abolishing clergy celibacy, set up a church outside the Roman Catholic church.

The African had a strong following in a church near Rome because of his reputation as an exorcist and healer. Catholic officials accused him of promoting African indigenous beliefs by performing mass exorcisms and healing ceremonies.

"Sadly, Archbishop Milingo has shown no signs of the desired repentance with a view to returning to full communion with the Supreme Pontiff and other members of the College of Bishops," the Vatican said in a statement.

Both the late Pope John Paul II, and his successor, Benedict XVI "personally followed the case of Archbishop Milingo in a spirit of paternal solicitude" to no avail, but the churchman's "regrettable conduct" persisted despite the pontiffs' efforts, the Vatican said. "The Holy See has therefore been obliged to impose upon him the further penalty of dismissal from the clerical state," the statement

said, calling that step "most extraordinary."

In an apparent acknowledgment that the Vatican was worried about a schism of sorts if the illicit consecration of bishops without papal approval continued, the statement said the Holy See felt "obliged" to take the dramatic step because of concern for "serious consequences for ecclesial communion," a formal phrase meaning church unity. Benedettini said the defrocking meant Milingo could not wear priest's vestments or celebrate Mass, even in private. More notably, in the church's eyes, any ordination that Milingo might carry out would be invalid, the spokesman said.

The Vatican added that any participation by faithful in "any future celebrations organized" by Milingo would be considered "unlawful."

Benedict, who for two decades

was the Vatican's guardian of doctrinal orthodoxy before becoming pontiff in 2005, has urged faithful to adhere closely to church strictures. But he has also made a priority of his papacy efforts to bring back straying sheep to his spiritual flock.

Prominent in that campaign was Benedict's move to reconcile with an ultraconservative group, the Society of St. Pius X. During John Paul's papacy, four of its bishops were excommunicated when they were consecrated without papal consent by the late renegade Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, himself excommunicated.

Regarding Milingo, the Vatican said the church was entrusting to "the power of prayer, the repentance of the guilty party and of all those who — be they priests or faithful — have in any way cooperated with him by acting against the unity of Christ's church." The Vatican said it hopes Milingo "will see the error of his ways."

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Boys return

Continued from front page

The ruling written by Justice Marco Aurelio Mello means the boy will be in Brazil at least until Feb. 1, following the justices' return from a recess, according to a court spokesman who commented on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to discuss the case. David Goldman's lawyer Ricardo Zamariola confirmed the ruling means he will be unable to pick up his son Sean at the American Consulate in Rio on Friday, as a federal appeals court had ruled on Wednesday.

"We're studying the decision and we'll decide what to do soon," said Zamariola.

It was not immediately possible to contact Goldman in Rio and Zamariola said he had yet to speak with his client.

Shortly before the stay was announced, Goldman, dressed in black, stepped off a 12-hour flight from New York into a large scrum of reporters at Rio's international airport.

Facing the crowd of cameras and microphones, he looked blank, uttered a few quiet words and appeared every inch a man exhausted — from a flight, the custody fight and the chance that, one more time, a last-minute appeal will keep him from taking his boy back to New Jersey.

"I hope I can go home with my son," Goldman quietly told reporters.

President Barack Obama, the U.S. Congress and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton have all urged the child's return, and a U.S. congressman traveled to Rio on Thursday to continue lobbying for Sean's return.

In 2004, Goldman's wife, Bruna Bianchi, took Sean to her native Brazil.

Goldman says it was to be a two-week vacation, but she stayed and so did the boy. She eventually obtained a Brazilian divorce from Goldman and remarried.

Goldman was already seeking his son's return under an international treaty that covers cross-border child abductions when his former wife died last year giving birth to

a daughter.

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, who has been supportive of Goldman's fight has raised it in Congress and is in Brazil with Goldman, said upon landing in Rio that this case fell under international law and that the boy had been illegally taken away from Goldman.

"Child abduction is a serious crime and now for over five years David has been trying to get his son," Smith said. "We hope this is the end game and that he'll be reunited with his only father, and that's David Goldman."

Before the Supreme Court ruling, Zamariola had warned that additional appeals could block the transfer of Goldman's son and forecast that a final resolution would not come until at least the first half of 2010.

Previous rulings favorable to Goldman have been scuttled by Brazilian courts. Zamariola said he was certain lawyers for Joao Paulo Lins e Silva, the Brazilian stepfather with whom Sean lives, would appeal Wednesday's federal court ruling to surrender the boy.



U.S. citizen David Goldman, second right, arrives at Rio de Janeiro's airport Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009. Goldman, the U.S. father who won another round in his legal fight to regain custody of his 9-year-old son living in Brazil with his grandparents after his Brazilian mother died, hopes to bring the boy to New Jersey in time for Christmas.

Associated Press

Sergio Tostes, attorney for Sean's stepfather Joao Paulo Lins e Silva, declined to comment.

The boy's maternal grandmother says Sean wants to stay in Rio and had filed the separate petition with the Supreme Court asking that the boy's desires be considered.

The child, who has dual citizenship, has been shielded from speaking directly to the news media.

Goldman and Sean were reunited in February for the first time since his son was taken to Brazil. They have not seen each other since June.



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Brazil suspect stuck needles in boy for a ritual

MARCO SIBAJA

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — The stepfather of a 2-year-old boy found with 42 needles in his body confessed to jabbing them into the toddler during weeks of rituals with a woman he claimed received instructions through trances, Brazilian police said Thursday. Roberto Carlos Magalhaes, a 30-year-old bricklayer, told detectives that the woman who went into a trance would "command him to stick the needles in the boy's body," police inspector Helder Fernandes Santana said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

The two held repeated sessions over several weeks, and perhaps longer, in which they inserted the needles in the child, Santana said.

"According to his confession, he acted under influence of the woman, but it was he who stuck the needles in the boy's body," the inspector said. The stepfather, the woman who went into trances and another woman at some of the rituals have been arrested, though no charges have yet been filed.

Magalhaes initially denied involvement when he was first questioned by authorities on Monday, but confessed after police detained him on Wednesday, Santana said.

An enraged crowd of more than 100 people surrounded and hurled rocks at the police station in the small northeastern city of Ibotirama where the suspects were held Wednesday night. Santana said they broke out a window of his own car because they wrongly believed the suspects were in it. Extra police were called in to restore order and protect the suspects, who were then taken to an undisclosed lockup for their own protection.

The child, meanwhile, was airlifted to the heart unit of a major hospital in northeastern Brazil Thursday because two of the needles are close to his heart, but it was not immediately clear when doctors might be able to remove them.

Surgeons at a hospital in the town of Barreiras in Bahia state, where the boy had been hospitalized since Sunday had decided not

to try to remove any needles immediately for fear they could cause more damage.

Doctors located 42 needles in the boy, who was in stable condition after a 240-mile flight to the hospital in the coastal city of Salvador that has a special heart unit.

Hospital spokeswoman Susy Moreno said that an evaluation of how to treat or operate on the boy probably would not be finished until Friday. He was in an intensive care unit but was conscious.

The boy's mother, a maid, took him to a hospital in Ibotirama on Dec. 10, saying he was complaining of pain. Three days later, after X-rays revealed many of the needles, doctors moved him to the larger hospital in the nearby city of Barreiras.

The mother told police she didn't know how the needles got inside her son, whose name was not released because of his age.

The boy's father, Gessivaldo Alves, told a Brazilian newspaper that he visited the home where the boy was living and found



In this frame taken from a TV Globo video, a person points at an X-ray of a 2-year-old boy showing needles inside his body in a hospital in Ibotirama, northern Brazil, Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2009. A 2-year-old Brazilian boy has as many as 50 metal sewing needles inside his body and a doctor treating the boy said they were apparently stuck there one by one. Associated Press

unspecified items that could be used for black magic.

Santana said police are investigating to determine what sort of religious sect the stepfather and the women belonged to.

One of the doctors who treated the child, Luiz Cesar Soltoski, said

he believed that the needles were stuck into the child's body one by one. Police have also concluded it would have been impossible for the boy to have ingested the needles — which have been also been found in a lung, his left leg and different parts of the thorax.

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Stocks fall as dollar gains, FedEx disappoints



Jonathan Corpina, left, and Louis Silk work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

NEW YORK – A stronger dollar and disappointing corporate news muscled stocks lower Thursday over concerns that the economy will struggle to recover.

Major stock indexes slid more than 1 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 133 points for its third straight loss. Treasury prices jumped.

The dollar climbed to a three-month high against the euro, a sign investors were seeking safety. Investor confidence was

further sapped as Citigroup Inc. sold stock at a steep discount as part of a plan to repay government loans and a forecast from FedEx Corp. fell short of expectations.

More downbeat news came in on the economy as the government reported an unexpected rise in unemployment claims. The number of new jobless claims rose to 480,000 last week, up 7,000 from the previous week.

Stocks could get a boost

Friday from BlackBerry maker Research In Motion Ltd. and software company Oracle Corp., which each posted quarterly profits after the closing bell Thursday that topped expectations. The slide Thursday came as the dollar rose, which cuts into profits of U.S. companies that do business abroad. The euro slumped after Standard & Poor's lowered its debt rating on Greece, the latest European country to have credit problems.

A pair of improved economic

reports did little to shore up the market. The Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators rose in November for the eighth consecutive month, while the Philadelphia Federal Reserve said manufacturing in its region rose. Investors have been looking for signs that a nine-month advance in the stock market is justified by improvements in the economy. At the same time, as year-end approaches many investors are also eager to secure gains for 2009.

John Merrill, chief investment officer of Tanglewood Wealth Management, said the rising dollar was overshadowing the improvement in the economic numbers. He said the dollar was benefiting as traders concerned about rising debt levels in countries like Greece pulled out of the euro.

"There are a lot of shifting sands as people, not just federal reserve banks, look at the underpinnings of those currencies," he said. The Dow fell 132.86, or 1.3 percent, to 10,308.26. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 13.10, or 1.2 percent, to 1,096.08, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 26.89, or 1.2 percent, to 2,180.05.

Bond prices jumped, pushing yields lower. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.48 percent from 3.60 percent late Wednesday.

The ICE Futures U.S. dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of foreign currencies, rose 1 percent. Gold fell, while crude oil dropped 1 cent to settle at \$72.65 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In corporate news, Citigroup fell 25 cents, or 7.3 percent, to \$3.20 after the Treasury Department backed out of its plans to sell its 34 percent stake in the company.

The move came after a stock sale drew a tepid response from investors. The bank is trying to repay \$20 billion of the \$45 billion in government

support it received to weather the financial crisis. The company said it would sell 5.4 billion shares at \$3.15 apiece. That was 9 percent below where shares stood when the company announced the plan.

Meanwhile, FedEx provided a cautious forecast for the quarter that ends in February after reporting its fiscal second-quarter earnings fell 30 percent. Investors track the company's business because it is seen as a signal about the overall strength of the economy. The shipping company fell \$5.48, or 6.1 percent, to \$84.47.

The concerns about debt in Europe and the corporate news brought reminders that the economy isn't likely to spring back to life the way it did after downturns earlier in the decade. The recovery is likely to be muted," said Jim Baird, partner and chief investment strategist at Plante Moran Financial Advisors. "It's likely to be held back by a consumer that remains in a more delicate spot than would ideally be the case coming out of a recession." Baird added that the market's retreat wasn't worrisome because of the run stocks have been on since March. The benchmark S&P 500 index is up 21.3 percent for the year so some selling is to be expected as investors look to lock in profits for the year.

About three stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where heavy trading in Citigroup helped push consolidated volume to 7.9 billion shares compared with 4.9 billion Wednesday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 6.96, or 1.1 percent, to 604.25.

Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1.9 percent, Germany's DAX index lost 1 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 1.2 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 0.9 percent.

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Venezuela's President worried about US presence on Dutch island

Chavez accuses Dutch of aggression

CARACAS – President Hugo Chavez on Thursday accused the Netherlands of planning “aggression” against Venezuela by allowing U.S. troops access to Dutch islands off the Caribbean coast of the OPEC nation.

“I am accusing the Kingdom of the Netherlands, along with the Yankee empire, of preparing aggression against Venezuela,” Chavez said at a meeting with leftist groups in Copenhagen, which was broadcast on Venezuelan state television.

Chavez, in the Danish capital to attend climate talks, is embroiled in a dispute with neighbor Colombia over a deal to give the United States more access to its military bases. The former soldier says Washington fears his socialist government and is surrounding Venezuela.

Chavez said the self-governing Dutch islands were located in Venezuelan territorial waters. The Dutch Embassy in Caracas was not immediately available for comment.

The United States has long had a military presence on the islands of Curacao and Aruba, with about 250 Air Force crew and ground staff involved in counternarcotics and surveillance operations over the Caribbean.

Anglo-Dutch oil giant Royal Dutch Shell operates a lubricants plant and a joint venture with Venezuela’s state oil company PDVSA in the western Lake Maracaibo oil fields in the South American nation, according to Shell’s website.

Chavez did not say why he was accusing the Netherlands of preparing aggression now. He also mentioned the reactivation last year of the U.S. Navy Fourth Fleet, which was disbanded in 1950.

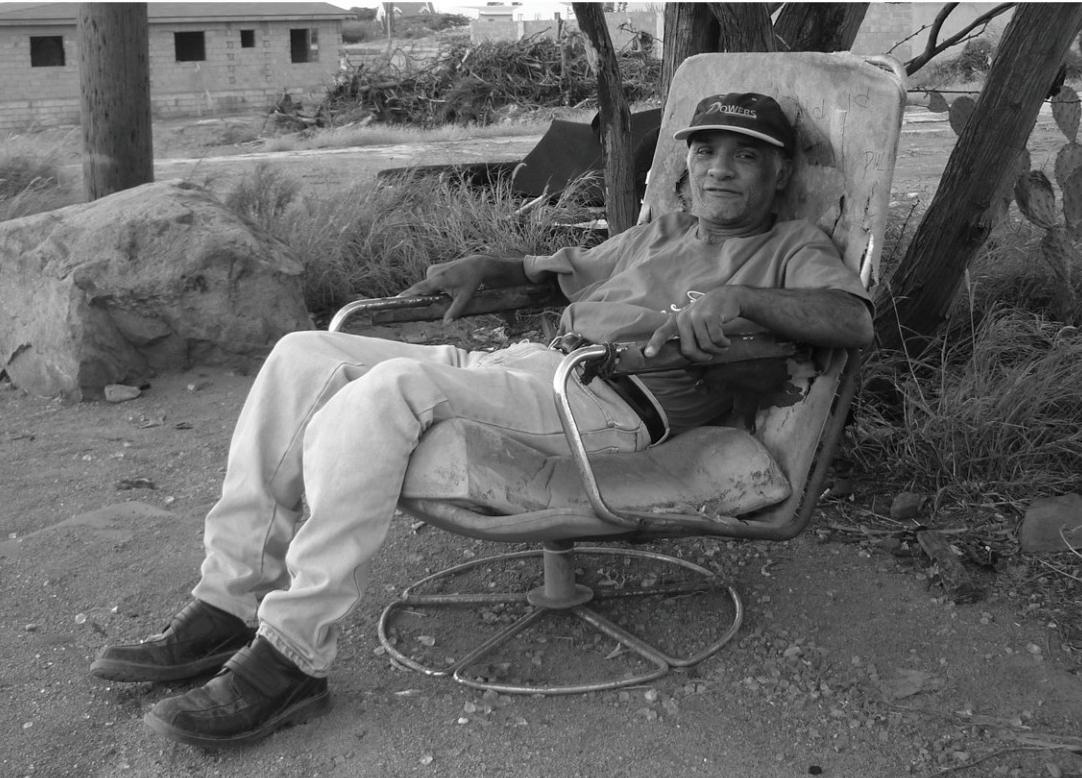
The Fourth Fleet patrols the coasts of Latin America.

Colombia on Thursday demanded Venezuela hunt down and extradite around 15 guerrilla chiefs it says have taken refuge across the border



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez looks on during a meeting with his Argentine counterpart Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner at the Casa Rosada Presidential Palace in Buenos Aires, December 9, 2009.

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Bengals receiver Henry dies day after dispute

MIKE CRANSTON

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry died on Thursday, a day after falling out of the back of a truck during what police said was a domestic dispute with his fiancee. Henry was 26.

"We knew him in a different way than his public persona," Bengals owner Mike Brown said of the player who was suspended five times during his five-year NFL career. "He had worked through the troubles in his life and had finally seemingly reached the point where everything was going to blossom. And he was going to have the future we all wanted for him. It's painful to us. We feel it in our hearts, and we will miss him."

Teary players held a somber practice and dedicated the rest of their season to Henry, who was recovering from a broken arm that ended his season last month.



In this Sept. 27, 2009 file photo, Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry (15) catches a pass against the Pittsburgh Steelers in the first half of an NFL football game, in Cincinnati. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police say Henry has died Thursday Dec. 17, 2009, one day after suffering serious injuries upon falling out of the back of a pickup truck in what authorities describe as a domestic dispute with his fiancee. Henry was 26.

Associated Press

Police spokeswoman Rosalyn Harrington said homicide detectives have been assigned to the case but had no further information. Authorities have not announced the cause of death.

Police say a shirtless Henry fell from the truck on a curve about half a mile (800 meters) from the home where the dispute began on Wednesday. Henry jumped into the bed of the truck as his fiancee was driving away from the residence.

Henry is engaged to Loleini Tonga, and the couple has been raising three children. Tonga's MySpace page identifies herself as "Mrs. C. Henry" and has a picture of her next to a person who appears to be Henry. She also has a post from Tuesday talking about buying wedding rings. A neighbor said on Wednesday the Tonga family owns the home where police say the incident began. Charlotte is home to his fiancee's parents.

Continued on page 14

NBA Roundup

Nuggets lose Billups but beat Rockets

DENVER (AP) — Denver's Carmelo Anthony scored 38 points — his fifth straight 30-plus point performance — as the Nuggets overcame the loss of star guard Chauncey Billups to beat the Houston Rockets 111-101 in the NBA on Wednesday.

Billups, who had 15 points and is averaging 17.5, left the game with a groin strain late in the third quarter. There was no immediate word on his status for Friday's game at New Orleans.

Reserve J.R. Smith added 21 points for the Nuggets, who retained a 3-1/2 game lead atop the Northwest Division.

Aaron Brooks scored 23 points for Houston.

Lakers 107, Bucks 106, OT

In Milwaukee, Kobe Bryant hit a 15-footer as time expired to give Los Angeles an overtime win over Milwaukee.

Bryant scored the game's final seven points over the last 1:18 of overtime. He had 27 of his 39 points in the

second half and overtime, but missed a shot at the buzzer that would have won it in regulation.

Given a second chance in overtime, he made no mistake.

Pau Gasol had 26 points and a career-high 22 rebounds for the Lakers, who tied Boston for the best record in the NBA with their 13th win in the past 14 games.

Mavericks 100, Thunder 86

In Oklahoma City, Dirk Nowitzki had 35 points and 11 rebounds to lead Dallas to a comfortable win over Oklahoma City.

Nowitzki made up for Kevin Durant, clad in new orange sneakers, matching his lowest-scoring total of the season with only 12 points on 4-for-18 shooting.

Russell Westbrook led Oklahoma City with 16 points.

Magic 118, Raptors 99

In Orlando, Florida, potent 3-point shooting helped Orlando to a win over Toronto.

Dwight Howard had 18 points, 14

rebounds and eight blocks for the Magic, while Rashard Lewis added 21 points.

Orlando shot 14 of 30 from beyond the arc.

Toronto's Hedo Turkoglu was showered with a mix of cheers and boos and scored 14 points as he returned to Orlando, where he was a fan favorite before parting ways in the offseason.

Hawks 110, Grizzlies 97

In Atlanta, the hosts pulled away in the second half for their fifth straight win, beating Memphis.

Despite playing only 29 minutes, Joe Johnson scored 26 points, making 10 of 16 shots from the field, including a couple of 3-pointers, and chipped in with eight rebounds and three assists. Sam Young led Memphis with 20 points.

Cavaliers 108, 76ers 101

In Philadelphia, LeBron James hit two clutch 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and scored 36 points to lead Cleveland over Philadelphia.



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant makes the game-winning basket over Milwaukee Bucks' Charlie Bell (42) during overtime of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009, in Milwaukee. The Lakers won 107-106. (AP)

Phelps ends year in Ryder

Cup-style swim meet

ROB HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Michael Phelps will continue his back-to-the-future transition to old-style swimsuits when he leads an American team against the best swimmers from Britain, Italy and Germany in the so-called "Duel in the Pool."

called 'Duel in the Pool'. Phelps is the star attraction in Manchester for the short-course contest on Friday and Saturday, but is returning to Europe after a lackluster trip last month for World Cup meets.

The man, who ripped up the record books by winning eight Olympic golds last year, described the trans-Atlantic trip that yielded no victories — let alone records — as “pretty awful.”

The difference? While his rivals continued to swim in high-tech suits which will be banned from Jan. 1, Phelps reverted to wearing old-style, textile knee-length suits that make him slower.

"At this point it doesn't matter, a race is a race. I get up and swim and I know for the time being I'm as prepared as I can be and whatever happens here happens," Phelps said. "It's not really what happens now that really matters, it's what happens at the end of my career that matters."

career that matters. But British swimmer James Goddard could wear one of the performance-enhancing

suits which will be outlawed. Goddard finished sixth behind Phelps in the 200 meters individual medley in Beijing. "If you've got a better shot of getting more points when you've got a newer suit on, should we take it or not?" Goddard said. "If you want to do what's best for the team maybe you should put a faster suit on to get more points.

"The suits are going to change next year anyway so we'll all see what happens in the future."

In the Manchester Aquatics Center where Ian Thorpe dominated at the 2002 Commonwealth Games, Phelps will be competing for the first time in England as part of the 36-strong U.S.

"He is the kind of god in sport, isn't he?" said Rebecca Adlington, the British Olympic 400 and 800-meter freestyle champion. "He's just kind of the ultimate competitor ... he is just absolutely unbelievable and for him to be able to come over here and compete and for us all to get a chance to see him in the flesh is just such a brilliant thing."

Adlington will be among the six female and six male swimmers from each of Britain, Germany and Italy making up a European side. There are 30 races, including

four relays, over the two days with three swimmers from each team competing in each individual race.

Like Phelps, Adlington will be ditching the polyurethane-clad racing outfit before the FINA ban becomes compulsory.

"I've decided to wear the suit because for the rest of my swimming career, that's the suit that I'm going to be wearing," Adlington said. "I might as well get used to it now. It seems silly to wear the old one at this point in my career. I'm quite comfortable in a knee suit so it's not such a big thing.

"I haven't really trained in it.
"I've done a couple of lengths

A black and white photograph of Michael Phelps, an American swimmer, sitting at a podium during a press conference. He is wearing a grey zip-up hoodie with "DUEL IN THE POOL" printed on it. He is looking slightly to his left. In front of him are two microphones. Behind him is a wall with various logos, including "MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL", "speedo", "British Gas", and "DUEL IN THE POOL". The "DUEL IN THE POOL" logo features a shield with three stars and a stylized "U" shape next to a Union Jack flag.

US swimmer Michael Phelps speaks during a press conference at the Manchester Aquatics Centre in Manchester England, Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009. Phelps and the American swimming team are taking on a European team in the 'Duel in the Pool' on Friday and Saturday.

Friday and Saturday
Associated Press

in it but nothing major, which is why I'm quite looking forward to trying it in a race.' Phelps also expressed sympathy for Tiger Woods and his family because of the scrutiny they are under following the golfer's infidelities.

"He's going through a hard time right now I assume, I've no idea what he is going through but it can't be easy. I just wish him the best for himself and his family," Phelps said. "I'd be the first to admit I've made a lot of mistakes both in and out of the pool."

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In a Tuesday Sept. 15, 2009 photo, The Cincinnati Bengals Chris Henry, right, is seen with, from the left, his fiancé, Loleini and their kids DeMarcus, 10 months, Seini, 3, and Chris Jr., 2 at their home. Police say Henry has suffered serious injuries after falling out of the back of a pickup truck during a domestic dispute with his fiance Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009 in Charlotte.
 Associated Press

Henry Dies

Continued from page 12

No one answered the door at that home, where there were deep tire tracks on the front lawn.

"We ask that you keep Chris' family—especially the young children he leaves behind—in your prayers," Henry's agent, Andy Simms of PlayersRep Sports said in a statement. "It is tragic when a life is taken so young. He was a man just realizing his potential, not just in football, but in life."

The Bengals will wear a helmet sticker on Sunday against the San Diego Chargers to remember Henry. They can clinch the division title and only their second playoff spot in the last 19 years with a victory.

When players received word Henry had died, quarterback Carson Palmer called them together in the locker room and said they should dedicate the game and rest of the season to Henry and the wife of defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer, who died unexpectedly during the season.

"We are greatly saddened by today's tragic news about the loss of Chris Henry," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to Chris' family, including his Bengals family. We have been in contact with the Bengals to offer our support through this difficult time."

After his fifth arrest in three seasons as a Bengal, after which a judge called Henry "a one-man crime wave," Henry was released by the team.

Then Brown gave him another chance and Henry seemed determined to stay out of trouble. He played in 12 of 16 games in 2008, then set about making himself a topflight receiver again. He got into top shape and worked out with teammates in the offseason, showing more resolve than at any point in his career.

Henry also changed his personal life, spending more time with his fiancee and their three children. Teammates noticed a pronounced change in his demeanor.

He caught a touchdown pass in each of Cincinnati's four preseason games. A thigh injury slowed him early in the season, and he had 12 catches for 236 yards — his 19.7-yard average per catch leads the team — when he broke his left arm during a win over Baltimore on Nov. 8, ending his season.

"He was doing everything right," receiver Chad Ochocinco said. "My grandma always says you never question the man upstairs on decisions he makes. Everyone makes mistakes, but I don't see how Chris was supposed to go already, especially when he was on the right path. He's going to be missed."

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"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

Finchem says US PGA will get by without Woods

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) — U.S. PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said it will survive no matter how long Tiger Woods stays away to sort out his personal life, and that a portrait of "gloom and doom" is misleading.

In the midst of a shocking sex scandal, Woods is taking an indefinite leave from competition to try to save his marriage, leaving golf without its biggest star while it continues to cope with a downturn in the economy. "I want him to come back and play," Finchem said on Thursday in a conference call. "But we are going to be successful in '10. If Tiger is out for a couple of months or eight months of a year, we're going to have a successful year. ... It won't be at the same levels without our No. 1 player, there's no question about that. No sport would be at the same level without its No. 1 player."

"But I think the doom and gloom needs to go away."

Finchem said six of the highest-performing tournaments, which he based on net revenue donated to charity, have not had Woods in the field during the last several years. He also said the cumulative number of viewers during a tour event did not decrease even when Woods missed the second half of 2008 with knee surgery.

"I'm not saying that I think everything is fine," Finchem said. "We're in a down economy. It's hard to sell. And having the No. 1 player in our sport not play is not a positive thing, and it does hurt television ratings. But I look at it in the reverse. I look at Tiger spiking ratings off of a significantly solid base when he plays ... and I want that spike. And I certainly want the attention he brings to the sport."

The attention has shifted dramatically since a Nov. 27 car accident outside his Florida home, setting off sensational details of extramarital affairs that have tarnished his good guy reputation.

Finchem said it was the biggest "curveball" he has dealt with in his 15 years as commissioner.

"I can't think of anything else that was more of a curveball," Finchem said during a brief break from media interviews. "Just the magnitude of it. I can't recall an individual in politics, sports, with this

level of focus that it's generating in the media. Everybody is talking about it. My 17-year-old daughter comes home from school, they're talking about it in the classroom. "I've often said that up until (President Barack) Obama, he was the most recognized guy on the planet, and everybody thought he was perfect. The realization that he's not is huge news."

Finchem said the tour had no input on Woods' decision to step away, and he suggested that the salacious tales of infidelity likely would not be subject to discipline under the tour's "conduct unbecoming" clause.

The tour does not announce suspensions, although John Daly told The Associated Press last year he had been suspended for

six months because of a long list of negative publicity, including his mug shot from a North Carolina jail where he was taken to get sober.

"Historically, the PGA Tour has never ... taken a situation in someone's personal life and dealt with it from a disciplinary matter," Finchem said. "Our regulations relate to conduct unbecoming that's either in the public arena or law enforcement arena."

Finchem also said he was not concerned with Woods being linked to a Canadian doctor being investigated because his assistant was found transporting drugs, including HGH, into the United States. The doctor, Anthony Galea, said he treated Woods with "blood spinning" to help his recovery from knee surgery.

"There's a lot of doctors linked to HGH," Finchem said. "There's no reason for me to be concerned because I have no information to trigger a concern."

Finchem sprinkled some good news into his conference call: The tour has renewed title sponsorship with the Sony Open in Honolulu and plans to work with the company on a 3D broadcast; the same is planned for one of its playoff events, the BMW Championship outside Chicago.

That makes 10 title sponsors with new contracts this year — seven renewals and three new sponsors. Finchem also said the presenting sponsor of the season-ending Tour Championship, Coca-Cola, is finishing up details on its contract renewal.

Finchem also chose to use a different measure of television.

While Woods has shown to spike ratings — they were down about 50 percent at 2008 tournaments he did not play in because of the knee surgery — Finchem said the cumulative number of American viewers for a U.S. PGA Tour event over four days was second only to a three-hour NFL game. He said the tour had an average of 26 million viewers each week in 2007, and the number was roughly the same in 2008, when Woods played only five tournaments. The number increased to 29 million this year. Finchem said U.S. PGA Tour events raised \$125 million for charity in 2008, and it dropped to \$109 million this year, mainly because of the economy. Projections are slightly higher for 2010.



This is an Aug. 9, 2009, file photo showing Tiger Woods, right, holding the trophy with PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem, after Woods won the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament in Akron, Ohio. Finchem says Tiger Woods' indefinite leave doesn't spell "gloom and doom" for golf. Finchem said Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009, that while the sport's biggest star's absence will hurt and television ratings won't be as strong, the tour will have a prosperous season in 2010.

Associated Press

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Patrick to make NASCAR debut at California

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

MOORESVILLE, N.C. — Danica Patrick will ease her way into NASCAR by skipping the Nationwide Series opener at Daytona International Speedway in favor of a less-stressful debut one week later at California.

The IndyCar star is still working on piecing together a 13-race schedule for JR Motorsports in NASCAR's second-tier series, but announced Thursday she's marked the Feb. 20 race at Auto Club Speedway for her debut.

JR Motorsports also will field a car for Patrick in the Feb. 27 race at Las Vegas.

Although Patrick will make her stock-car debut in the Feb. 6 ARCA opener at Daytona, she will not attempt the Nationwide race. The opener is usually stacked with NASCAR's top talent, and Sprint Cup drivers have won nine of the last 10 Nationwide races at Daytona. The lone exception? Martin Truex Jr., who won in 2005 in JR Motorsports car.

"The race is basically a Cup race, some 30 odd drivers in Cup run in it," she said. "So, is that the right time for me to start or not? You only get one grand opening, so I've heard. We want it to be the right opportunity."

Patrick made her first appearance with new boss Dale Earnhardt Jr. since announcing a two-year contract last week to try NASCAR for JR Motorsports, the team owned in combination by Rick Hendrick, Earnhardt, his



IndyCar driver Danica Patrick pauses before answering a question as she announces her intention to enter NASCAR races next season Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009, in Phoenix. Patrick has signed with JR Motorsports team, owned by Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Rick Hendrick, and intends to start in her first in an ARCA Series race on Feb. 6 at Daytona International Speedway.

Associated Press

sister, Kelley, and their cousin, Tony Eury Jr.

Sitting on stage at JR Motorsports flanked by her new team, she fielded questions from reporters before it was opened up to two preselected fans in attendance, as well as one question submitted through Facebook.

"I don't ever think I've seen as much power up on stage in NASCAR as I do today," Kelley Earnhardt said.

She wasn't lying. This partnership

combines the most marketable drivers in America's top two racing series, and with it will come a tremendous amount of attention. Patrick, who is used to a low-key IndyCar schedule, joked that she might have to by a private plane since there were race fans waiting for her when she landed at the Charlotte airport.

Already the pressure is on: one fan in attendance asked Patrick who will win first in 2010, Earnhardt, JRM driver Kelly

Bires or Patrick?

"It's probably not going to be me," she joked.

Patrick is approaching this new venture as an adventure. She signed a three-year contract extension earlier this month with Andretti Autosport that will keep her racing full-time in IndyCar, where she is the face of the open-wheel series and relied upon to help boost its popularity.

The 27-year-old Patrick, who has just one victory and 16 top-five

finishes in five IndyCar seasons, said she's still got a long list of goals for that series — including winning the Indianapolis 500.

"I still love IndyCar, and I still want to win the Indy 500 — I really want to," she said. "I had a feeling years ago that I'm going to win this race, and I still think I will."

But the lure of NASCAR, which offers substantial moneymaking opportunities and an opportunity for many racers aging out of open-wheel to extend their career, was too much to ignore. She has backing from sponsor GoDaddy.com, which will sponsor her IndyCar team as well, and a partnership with NASCAR's most popular driver in Earnhardt and powerful owner in Hendrick.

She's had only one real test in a stock-car, last week in Florida, but will go directly to Daytona to participate in the three-day ARCA test this weekend.

Patrick is being careful with expectations.

"You've got to take things in small steps. Baby steps," she said. "Let's see if I like it. At this point in time, I like it, but what if I didn't? Then I really look silly. If I like it, OK. And if not, then not. And that's OK, too."

Patrick's team will be led by crew chief Tony Eury Jr., who spent several high-stress seasons with Earnhardt before he was fired at Hendrick in late May. He's now back with his cousin at JR Motorsports, where he was given partial ownership and yet another high-profile crew chief position.

He said he's up for the challenge that will come with helping Patrick, who will try to join Tony Stewart and Juan Pablo Montoya as the only open-wheel drivers to find consistent success. Stewart, a former IndyCar champion, is a two-time NASCAR champion, while Montoya, a former CART champion and Formula One driver, made the Chase for the Sprint Cup this past season, his third in NASCAR.

Others have not been so lucky: Three-time IndyCar champion Sam Hornish Jr. has yet to find consistency, while reigning IndyCar champion Dario Franchitti lasted just a few months in NASCAR before returning to open-wheel.

Eury said they will keep the goals modest for this season.

"If we finish in the top 15 on a weekly basis, and her confidence is up, and we're happy with the results, that's where we've got to look," he said.

NHL Roundup

Brodeur equals Roy's record as Devils win

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Martin Brodeur tied Patrick Roy's NHL record for the most regular-season appearances by a goalie and the New Jersey Devils marked the occasion with a 2-1 win over the Montreal Canadiens on Wednesday.

Patrik Elias scored the winner with 2:36 left, moving the Devils level on points with Pittsburgh atop the Atlantic Division, with two games in hand.

Brodeur played his 1,029th game, all with New Jersey in his 16-year career. Roy played for Montreal and Colorado in his 18-year career.

Illka Pikkainen also scored to help the Devils beat Montreal for the fifth straight time. Travis Moen scored for the Canadiens.

Senators 2, Sabres 0

In Ottawa, Brian Elliott made 22 saves for his second shutout in four games, as Ottawa closed down Buffalo.

Alexandre Picard and Mike Fisher scored for Ottawa, which closed the gap on the Northeast Division-leading Sabres to four points.

Elliott was making his 13th straight start in the absence of the injured Pascal Leclaire.

Blackhawks 3, Blues 0

In Chicago, Cristobal Huet made 27 saves for his second shutout of the season, helping Chicago defeat St. Louis.

Patrick Kane assisted on all three Chicago goals, setting up Troy Brouwer, Brian Campbell and Marian Hossa.

The Blackhawks have not allowed a goal over two games and a span of 141 minutes, and moved two points clear atop the Central Division.

Chicago improved their NHL-leading home record to 14-3-1, and is off to its best start since 1982-83.

Coyotes 6, Maple Leafs 3

In Toronto, Petr Prucha scored twice, and Keith Yandle and Martin Hanzal each had three assists for Phoenix in the win over Toronto. Vernon Fiddler, Paul Bissonnette, Scottie Upshall and Radim Vrbata also scored for the Coyotes, who are 7-1-1 in their past nine games.

Phil Kessel scored for the third straight game for the Maple Leafs, and Jamal Mayers and Alexei Ponikarovsky added goals.

Panthers 4, Thrashers 3

In Sunrise, Florida, Michael Frolik scored the winner with 1:21 left, as Florida edged Atlanta.

Stephen Weiss, Radek Dvorak and Bryan McCabe also scored for the Panthers.

Atlanta's goals came from Ilya Kovalchuk, Nik Antropov and Vyacheslav Kozlov.

LOCAL

Aruba TODAY



On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Friday, December 18, 2009

University of Aruba students present results:

Aruba Brand Image & Study 2009 results announced

ORANJESTAD- Second-year students of the University of Aruba, School of Hospitality Management, have been assigned the task for the past four years by Dean Dr. Ryan Peterson of going out into the field to survey island visitors at over a dozen participating resorts. The Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association has been a strong supporter of this project since its inception, and the presentation of results is always an educational experience for the audience and participants.

The students worked in teams of four, and this year's study was presented to AHATA staff and members on Wednesday



morning, December 16 at the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. Participating students reported their findings in four groups, each examining a particular aspect of Aruba's tourism product. Nearly 800 individuals were interviewed to acquire the statistical information used for their conclusions.

The first group consisted of

Liandra Dewberry, Emjaelka Kelly, Giomar Nunes, and Nathaly Stanley; their task was to explore visitors' travel motives. Consistent with past surveys was findings demonstrated the majority of visitors to Aruba come primarily for "Rest and Relaxation" (38%) and secondly "Sea & Sun" (29%) which is closely followed by

those here for a special event, either a wedding, honeymoon or anniversary (21%). Among their subjects, they found the majority were repeat visitors, (55%), with nearly 20% of those returning to the island for more than 7 times, and 78.70% of those interviewed were from the USA. A large portion (63.60%) were here independently, not part of a

pre-paid package, and more than half were on island for a 1 week stay, some for 2 weeks, very few for longer. 70% of those visitors were between the ages of 50 to 59 years old, with the two next largest age groups split between those adjacent, the 40 to 49 year group and the 60 to 69 year group almost equally. These statistics provide a picture of Aruba's average visitor.

The second group consisting of Bryan Maduro, Jamie Lee Richardson, Gilly Dijkhoff and Clifton Stark examined exactly what motivated visitors to specifically choose Aruba, and the possible effectiveness of the island's marketing efforts. Interestingly enough, the #1 motivator for island visitors is "word of mouth"; the recommendations by family and friends with a distinctive

Continued on page 4

For a limited time only at the Renaissance Marketplace
Celebrity Chef Toshiro offers special Tasting

Menu at Sushi-Ya



ORANJESTAD -- Chef Toshiro will be preparing an 8-course tasting menu at Sushi-Ya restaurant, Seaport Marketplace, on Thursday, December 17th and Friday December 18th from 6 to 11:30 p.m.

Continued on page 11

On the eve of the restaurant's 10th anniversary

Celebrating perfection at the Amazonia Churrascaria



PALM BEACH -- The crew at Amazonia Churrascaria -- Aruba's first, authentic Brazilian Rodizio Steakhouse, that even vegetarians love -- are gearing up for the restaurant's 10th anniversary. Almost one decade ago, the new concept caught literal fire as a troop of waiters armed with mega skewers started roaming the colorful and friendly new indoor, outdoor dining room introducing the fresh and novel concept of continuous dining to enthusiastic locals and visitors.

Continued on page 5



Adding another touch of elegance

New wine list for Tango Restaurant



PALM BEACH - Tango Restaurant at Arawak Garden has a new wine list. The popular Argentine grill restaurant on the high rise strip is making the choice of the right wine for your dinner very easy indeed. The menu has been divided into various wines, made from different kind of grapes; at least three different wines per grape variety. These wines all have a very good price-quality ratio, and they have been divided into

very affordable, a medium-priced quality wine and a top-of-the-line bottle.

Tango's Manager Mark Reiman is very interested in wines; he has attended quite an impressive number of wine training seminars in the Netherlands and on Aruba.

He believes that a wine list should make things easy for his guests, so he came up with this idea. Tango Restaurant has wines from



all over the world, but the focus lies on much-loved California wines and on Chilean and Argentinian wines. His own favorites come from there: the Concha y Toro Don Melchor from Chile and the Achavel-Ferre Finca Altamira from Argentina. "Malbec grapes are the signature grapes from Argentina," Mark explains. "And a glass of Malbec is superb with the fantastic cuts of meat from our open grill." The house wine at Tango is called Trivento, from Argentina. It is a great



choice for the Filet Mignon, Grilled Shrimp, Beef Short Ribs or Chicken Breast. The wine list at Tango starts off with a short explanation about food pairing. But guests who would like a

specials, group specials and a daily Early Bird special, which is a 3-course menu for US \$ 25--. A soup or a salad is the start of the Early Bird special, then there is a choice between 6

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bit more information about interesting wines on the list can always ask manager Mark for his expert advice.

Tango has monthly

main courses, among them pasta, fish and chicken, and home-made caramel flan or vanilla ice cream as dessert. **The Early Bird menu is from 5 to 7 pm.**



Continuing His 5.5 Year Career With Marriott In Florida

Aruba Marriott Food & Beverage Manager Amit Sen Promoted



PALM BEACH – In a filled Grand Ballroom Marriott colleagues thanked Amit Sen ON December 16th for all his efforts in the Food & Beverage Department over the past 5,5 years. Sen was promoted to Food & Beverage and Activities Manager at a brand new Marriott Vacation Club property Oceana Palms in Palm Beach Florida, that is scheduled to celebrate its soft opening in January 2010. Most recently Sen held the position of Food & Beverage Manager at the Aruba Marriott overseeing the daily operations of all 7 restaurants and bars at Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club and Surf Club. Sen leaves the island on December 18th to pursue his career in the United States.

Many colleagues stepped forward and had good things to say about Sen who was characterized a hard worker and dedicated team player. Director of Food & Beverage Steve Marra praised Sen's contributions to the entire F&B team, and said his input will be dearly missed in Aruba. Director of Human Resources Barbara Bressat handed the traditional plaque with signatures of his colleagues to Amit and wished him all the best in the United States with his family. After all presents were handed and speeches were delivered Amit in his turn thanked all his colleagues at the Aruba Marriott and then cut a cake, decorated with alligators and flamingos, marking his start in Florida.

Sen started his 5,5 year career with Marriott in Aruba in 2004. His first position was Assistant Restaurant Manager. He was then promoted to Restaurant Manager and most recently Food & Beverage Manager. Prior to working for Marriott, India-born Sen held positions in the hospitality industry in his home

country, such as the New Delhi Hilton.

Aruba Marriott wishes Amit, his wife Janine and their two children all the best in Florida!

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 fully renovated guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, renewed free-form swimming

pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 888-PARADISE or visit www.arubamarriott.com. In the pictures: Marriott colleagues saying farewell to Amit Sen on December 16th in the Grand Ballroom.



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University of Aruba students present results:

Aruba Brand Image & Study 2009 results announced



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product. Nearly 800 individuals were interviewed to acquire the statistical information used for their conclusions.

The first group consisted of Liandra Dewberry, Emjaelka Kelly, Giomar Nunes, and Nathaly Stanley; their task was to explore visitors' travel motives. Consistent with past surveys was findings demonstrated the majority of visitors to Aruba come primarily for "Rest and Relaxation" (38%) and secondly "Sea & Sun" (29%) which is closely followed by those here for a special event, either a wedding, honeymoon or anniversary (21%). Among their subjects, they found the majority were repeat visitors, (55%), with nearly 20% of those returning to the island for more than 7 times, and 78.70% of those interviewed were from the USA. A large portion (63.60%) were

here independently, not part of a pre-paid package, and more than half were on island for a 1 week stay, some for 2 weeks, very few for longer. 70% of those visitors were between the ages of 50 to 59 years old, with the two next largest age groups split between those adjacent, the 40 to 49 year group and the 60 to 69 year group almost equally. These statistics provide a picture of Aruba's average visitor.

The second group consisting of Bryan Maduro, Jamie Lee Richardson, Gilly Dijkhoff and Clifton Stark examined exactly what motivated visitors to specifically choose Aruba, and the possible effectiveness of the island's marketing efforts. Interestingly enough, the #1 motivator for island visitors is "word of mouth"; the recommendations by family and friends with a distinctive 43.4%. The next largest group at 24.3% responded they were on island because they enjoyed their previous visits, and the next group, at 12%, made their decision after exploring the destination online. Perhaps a disappointment for marketing people was that only 22.2% report even noticing the "90,000 Friends" campaign, and 94.8% reported it had little or no influence on their decision to vacation on Aruba. A veteran marketing person from the audience reminded the students "rarely will individuals surveyed admit to being influenced by advertising," but these numbers certainly gave the audience of Aruba's marketing pundits information for serious debate.

Another interesting bit of information resulting from the survey was the affirmation that the Internet continues to increase as a premier source for travel, with 32.3% booking their trip with an online agent (Expedia, Orbit and such,) but an almost equal number (31.3%) still used a live travel agent to make their travel plans; so live travel agents are far obsolete. The majority stated the global financial crisis had no effect on their travel plans, which makes sense, as they likely would not be on island and interviewed if it had.

In particular, this group brought forward the information that a fair number of the travelers had visited other very popular destinations, such as The Bahamas, Jamaica and Dominican Republic, and among those, nearly 100% found Aruba "comparable" "better" or "much



better" than these destinations, with more than 57% giving it a higher rating. Only 2.7% did not like it as much or better than these other destinations, which claim the majority of Caribbean vacationers.

Two more groups presented their findings, Beanne Nava, Lugbelkis Wernet, Kim Pablo, and Margareth Boekhoudt analyzed Aruba's Destination Qualities as perceived by those interviewed; Gloria Vega, Kaman Hui, Ramsey Rasmijn and Eliana Arguello presented their findings on Destination Satisfaction. Aruba's three top destination qualities proved to be its "white beaches and tropical climate" and thirdly, with 15% considering it an important factor, the Aruban people. More than 98% of those interviewed considered being relaxed as essential to their vacation experience; 97% opted for physical comfort a primary factor, matched by the need to feel belongings are safe and secure, as well as being treated with respect.

These factors provide the profile for what keeps visitors returning to Aruba regularly, as they felt the island consistently fulfills these requirements. Aruba scores very, very high on the satisfaction meter, but as the students asked "We are good, but...are we great?" as the number of visitors who reported "the wow" factor, or being ecstatic with their experience, only numbered around 13%.

Jim Henning, the new President and CEO of AHATA felt such primary destinations as The Bahamas "would die for those kind of visitors satisfaction numbers, as they don't even come close, and I have 20 years of experience working in The Bahamas."

Following the presentations and an active Q & A, Dr. Peterson reported he had "mixed feelings" regarding the results, as usual. "If you know that the channels

we are putting the most money in; TV and Newspapers, have not reached THIS survey's population...than you have an inconsistency in what is working and where we are putting our money. I am not saying don't put your money into advertising, we need to continue to do that, but if we know that word of mouth and the experience is so important, we need to work on that...We need to show our community how we are promoting our product abroad... As much as we invest in the channel and marketing abroad we need to invest double as much, personally, I think, on what we do on island, in regard to what we do with our product. That means your people, your beaches your safety and security; these are elements that need to be included."

"What happens," continued Dr. Peterson, "is not only (the decision making-ed) entity hesitant in accepting what we have to say, but we are dealing with multiple entities that each have their own bias and perspective; not only within the public and the private sector, but also between the public and private sector. They have a stake in tourism, and these stakes are not always the same."

"Keep in mind, it takes "two to tango," concluded Dr. Peterson, "when putting together this last campaign, I know they really approached the community to get involved. This is where we as Arubans, as a community need to take a deep look in the mirror... Don't complain if you feel the campaign is "too American;" if we are unhappy we should step up to the plate...I have always said the community carries tourism...we are a part, and are allowed to be a part of tourism. The community needs to be aware they have a voice and needs to use that voice,

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Continued from front page



It was an instant success and Amazonia Churrascaria became a household name, a favorite place for family gatherings, celebrations or just fantastic, much-enjoyed meals. The restaurant gauchos continuously offer choice cuts of grilled beef, chicken, lamb, pork & sausage, seasoned to perfection and slow roasted over open flame. The meat selections are accompanied by an extravagant forty-item, frequently changing salad bar where you can keep sampling until your beg for mercy, all for an inclusive price, excluding dessert and beverages. Managed by Hubert Solagnier with over thirty years of Food & Beverage experience on the island, in Bonaire and in Holland, the restaurant is the 'baby' of local entrepreneurs and investors Rene Kan and Milton Berlinski. With over 40 frequently-changing salads on the salad bar, 12 types of grilled meats, a team of waiters who are entertainers as well as carvers and an international staff, Hubert is proud of his fantastic crew, and the tastiest food

in town, as well as potent Caipirinhas and one of the most beautifully decorated dining rooms in town.

Pictured here guests of Ruiz Construction, Bureau Arubaans Personnel, Valero Oil Refinery, David Kock & Ronny Wix Lawyers and many others enjoying the restaurant hospitality for Christmas parties.



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Visit Aruba's store in the Renaissance Mall

Louis Vuitton now presents the Christmas Trunk

Oranjestad--Though customs vary and traditions change, for most of us Christmas simply would not be Christmas without a magnificent tree. Around it we gather, exchanging gifts, laughter, memories, words of love, and its glittering ornaments are reflected in the sparkle of our eyes.

Perpetuating its proud tradition of creating custom-made trunks to transport our most precious possessions, Louis Vuitton now presents the Christmas Trunk—a magic box which, once opened, instantly conjures the spirit of Christmas anywhere in the world. Inside this exquisitely crafted case in Monogram canvas, complete with traditional natural leather handles, shiny brass S-lock

and corners, is a veritable treasure trove of intricate, hand-blown glass balls. To create this beautiful trunk, Louis Vuitton teamed-up with the Centre International d'Art Verrier de Meisenthal (The Meisenthal international glass work center), a village of the northern Vosges which aim at immortalizing the know-how of the creation of glass ornaments.

It was here, on the border between Alsace and Lorraine, that in the mid-19th century – just as Louis Vuitton was making a name for himself in Paris – the very first Christmas glass balls were blown. As at Louis Vuitton, ancestral know-how has been passed on from one generation to the next, and today Meisenthal produces

some of the most sought-after Christmas ornaments in the world. Here, too, heritage goes hand in hand with modernity, as – alongside traditional glass ornaments – new, contemporary editions are introduced each year. In partnership with Louis Vuitton, the artisans of Meisenthal created

a series of original designs, unique in size, color and shape, including a set of ten fabulous

spheres overlaid with a filigree of Monogram flowers.

The Christmas Trunk contains, nestled in four compartmented trays, a collection of 89 pieces in two color palettes. The first – gold, silver and chocolate – is not only traditional, but also recalls the signature colours

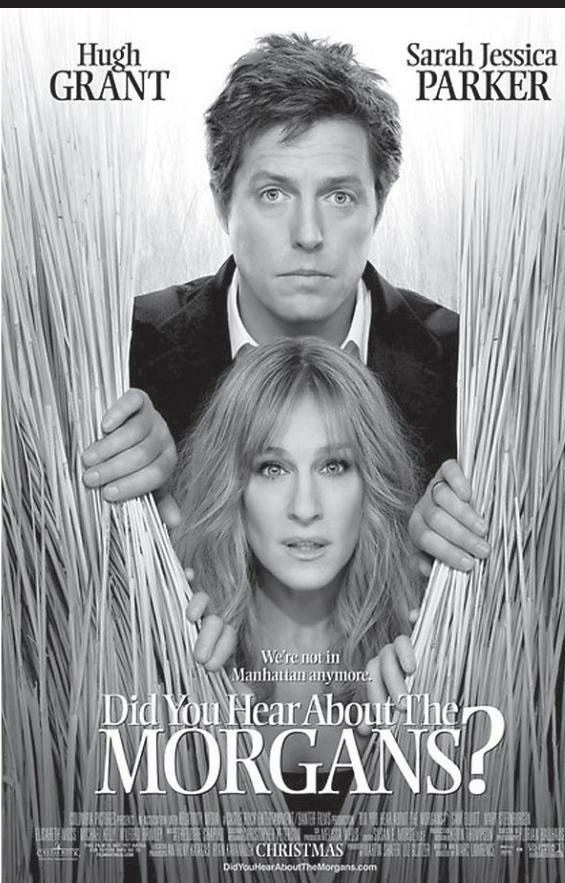
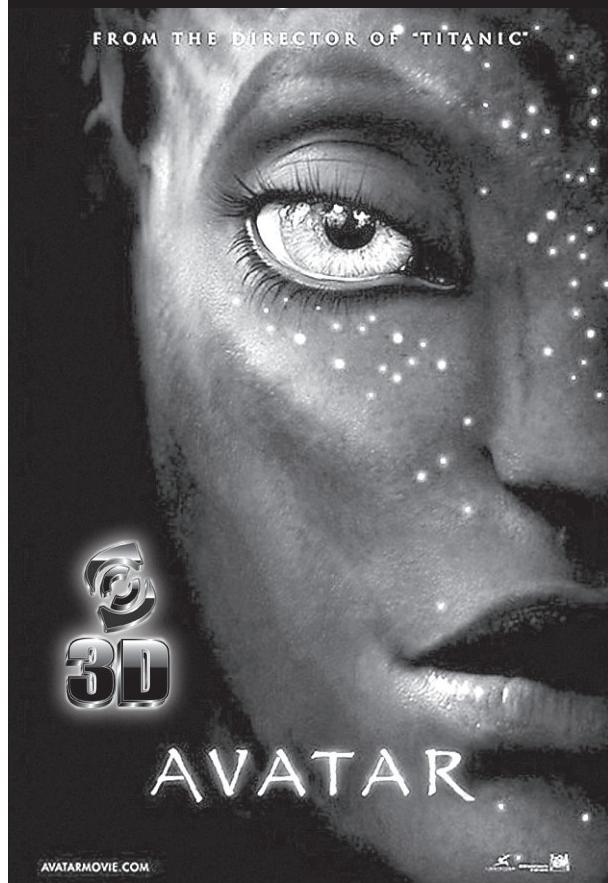


of Louis Vuitton. The second – red, green and blue – has the dazzling brilliance of priceless gems. The two sets can be combined on a single tree, or hung separately, according to the inspiration of the moment. All that remains is to step back, admire the result, and

let the festivities begin! We also include some marvelous gift ideas for this special Christmas season, visit your Louis Vuitton store in Renaissance Mall or visit the website www.louisvuitton.com and then order it at you favorite store in Aruba



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SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 23

*matinee: everyday | late show: friday and saturday

AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily:	4.30	7.45
NEW		matinee:	1.15	late show: 11.00
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily:	4.45	
		matinee:	12.15	2.30
				late show:
R	THE BLIND SIDE	daily:	5.45	8.30
		matinee:	12.00	2.45
				late show: 11.30
R	NINJA ASSASSIN	daily:	7.00	9.15
		matinee:		11.45
PG	OLD DOGS	daily:	8.15	10.15
		matinee:	12.15	2.15
				late show: 12.15
PG-13	2012	daily:	4.45	8.00
		matinee:	1.30	late show: 11.15
PG-13	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	daily:	6.00	9.00
		matinee:	12.15	3.00
				late show: 11.45

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	AVATAR 3D	daily:	4.45	8.00
		matinee:	1.30	late show: 11.15
PG-13	DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?	daily:	6.45	9.00
		matinee:		late show: 11.15
PG-13	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	daily:	5.45	8.45
		matinee:	12.00	3.00
				late show: 11.45
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily:	4.45	
		matinee:	12.15	2.30
				late show:
PG-13	2012	daily:	5.00	8.15
		matinee:	1.45	late show: 11.30
R	KOMT EEN VROUW BIJ DE DOKTER	daily:	7.00	9.15
		matinee:		late show: 11.30
PG-13	EVERYBODY'S FINE	daily:	4.30	
		matinee:	12.00	2.15
				late show:
R	ARMORED	daily:	5.30	7.45
		matinee:	1.00	3.15
				late show: 12.00

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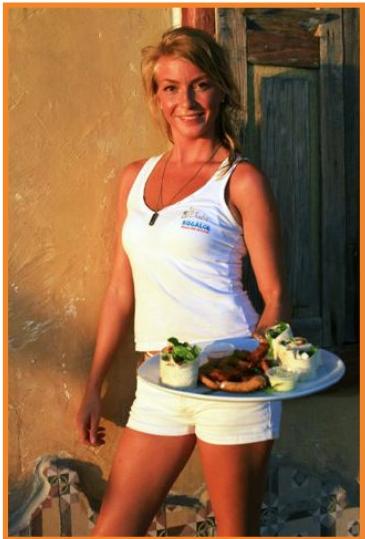
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People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks, a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glace what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.



The night is young, the world Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. On Sunday there will always be a top act by Tsunami, Robert Jeand'or, Abstract Dawn or Marisela & Aquarius. These musical talents draw the crowds. For more information go to www.bugaloe.com.

**Bugaloe is located at
De Palm Pier in
Palm Beach between
RIU Palace and
Radisson Resort.**

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on.

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Tuesday 6-9pm: JOYRIDE

Wednesday 7-11pm: PM Band

Friday 6-10pm: PM Band

Sunday 6-10pm: Tsunami, Robert Jeand'or, Abstract Dawn or Marisela & Aquarius

J. E. Irausquin Blvd 79 at De Palm Pier • Tel: (297) 5862233 • Website: www.bugaloe.com • Email: info@bugaloe.com

Live Music & Entertainment tonight at Casa Tua Barcelona



Snapper, served with Rice and a salad for \$19.95. For entertainment, Casa Tua Barcelona offers rhythms of salsa & bolero & Cha Cha Cha performed by a live band every Saturday Nights! El Latin Son will perform tonight!!

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucia. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

ORANJESTAD - As of this week our Flamenco Show will be extended with the performance of Kavey Yarzagaray. This Flamenco guitar player will perform together with Angela Croes on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with this fantastic live show! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

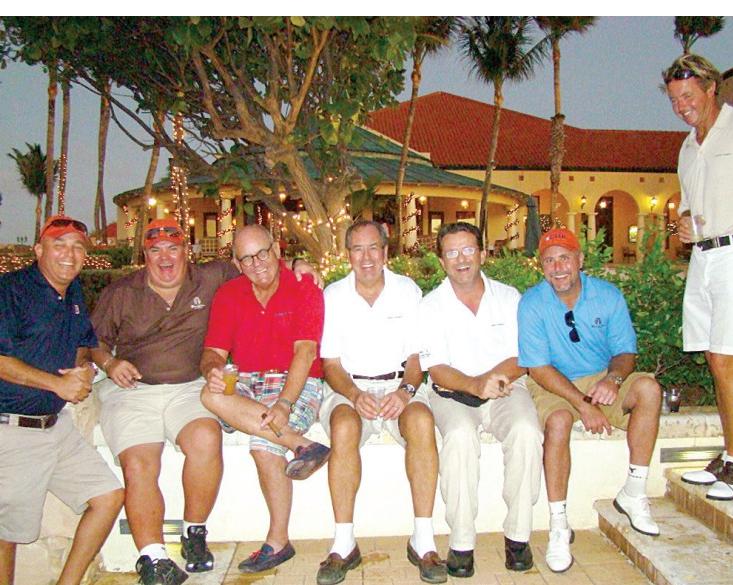
The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red

Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

Team Hoevertz wins Rotary International Golf Tournament at Tierra del Sol



WEST PUNT – Team Hoevertz, Team Compra I and Team CMB I, landed first, second & third places in the Rotary International Club Golf Tournament, at Tierra del Sol, this past Saturday. The tournament collected funds for the local Autism foundation, for a Teen Pregnancy project, and for the recently launched Dress a Child initiative, in conjunction with other Service Clubs, report Diego Frankel and Ravee Boolchand, on the organizing committee. The shotgun-start of the four-man scramble hosted the award ceremony.



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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.

Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba".

Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarin Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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and prizes at sunset that day accompanied by a fun raffle over delicious barbecue dinner, prepared by Ventanas del Mar restaurant. Sven Ellerkemp won nearest to the pin on hole #7 and Orlando Rasmijn nearest to the pin on hole #13, while Eddy Paris won longest drive on hole #6 and Cisco Quant longest drive on hole #16, earning them all fantastic prizes.

Head Golf Pro Oliver Reed, together with Golf Pro Adam Williamson concluded the tournament year at Tierra



del Sol satisfactorily, with a tremendous turn-out and excellent results.

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At the Renaissance Convention Center

Divi Resorts Host an Honors Ceremony



ORANJESTAD – Divi Resorts top-achievers for the year 2009 were presented at the Renaissance Convention Center during the yearend gala, to a festive room filled with almost one-thousand company employees.

The stellar selection hailed from Divi Village, Dutch Village, Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, The Links at Divi Aruba, the Sales Departments of both Divi Phoenix and Divi Golf Villas, and the Divi & Tamarijn Beach Resorts.

Managing Director Alex Nieuwmeyer, General Managers Gerrit Griffith, General Manager John Neophytou and Sales Director Paula Smith took great pride at awarding certificates and lauding the extraordinary individual qualities that distinguished the annual winners from already exceptional nominees.

For Employee of the Year 2009, for Divi & Dutch Village, Ryan Maduro, from the front office, earned the ultimate distinction while Carmen Hernandes, from the Housekeeping Department won the Supervisor of the Year award.

For Employee of the Year 2009, for Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, Shalien Croce, from the Kitchen, earned the ultimate distinction, while Jacqueline Cousins, from the Food & Beverage department, won the Supervisor of the Year award.

For Employee of the Year 2009, for the Links at Divi Aruba, Felix Abreu, from the Food & Beverage Department earned the ultimate distinction, while Anouska Holiger, from the Administration Department, won the same title for the Sales Department, as Employee of the Year, for DASC NV.

For Employee of the Year, Divi & Tamarijn Beach Resorts, Celvin Schmidt, from the Food & Beverage Department, earned the ultimate distinction while George Irwin from Maintenance won the Supervisor of the Year award.

Pictured here, the happy winners, acknowledged for their efforts in 2009, during the “Under The Sea,” gala hosted by Divi Resorts at the Renaissance Convention Center.



For a limited time only at the Renaissance Marketplace

Celebrity Chef Toshiro offers special Tasting Menu at Sushi-Ya



ORANJESTAD -- Chef Toshiro will be preparing an 8-course tasting menu at Sushi-Ya restaurant, Seaport Marketplace, on Thursday, December 17th and Friday December 18th from 6 to 11:30 p.m. The special menu features mussels in Peruvian lemon sauce, preserved Tuna in olive oil with Creole sauce, Ceviche Nikkei, fish baked in soy and ginger sauce, assorted maki rolls, and much more.

The Chef was invited by

restaurateurs Sven & Daisy Ellerkamp on the occasion of Sushi-Ya's tenth anniversary in Oranjestad. By creating an exciting special event Sven & Daisy would like to thank all their loyal customers for their patronage over the last decade.

"We are inviting sushi lovers to sample the chef's exotic flavors," says Sven, "we met Celebrity Chef Toshiro in Bogotá at a Gastronomic Fair where he was invited

to prepare sushi exhibition style, and fell in love with his food."

Chef Toshiro will be presenting the special menu for two days, while also sharing all of his trade secrets with the local Sushi-Ya kitchen crew.

On Saturday Sushi-Ya will be hosting a Client Appreciation party. "The regulars," says Sven, "are invited for a toast and a taste of the chef's creations on the occasion of the restaurant's 10th anniversary. We will also be introducing a number of different Sakes, imported in addition to the ten kinds already posted on the menu."

Chef Toshiro recounts that he arrived in Peru in '74 to help a colleague, the now-famous Nobu, with Matsuei, a Japanese restaurant project. Initially, he planned to stay in that country for three years, but the great variety and quality of ingredients found in Peru, and the staff he already



trained, made him wish to stay longer.

Chef Toshiro was raised on traditional Japanese culinary principles, as fourth generation chef in a dynasty dedicated to Kaiseki, the Japanese equivalent of French Haute Cuisine. However, in his contemporary style, he now blends the best of both worlds - extraordinary Peruvian ingredients, and complex Japanese preparations.

Chef Toshiro is a frequent guest

at international gastronomical conferences in Spain, Italy, Venezuela, and other countries, and he regularly consults on exclusive restaurants, offering Japanese-Peruvian cuisine. Toshiro was a professor at the St. Ignatius of Loyola University, he is the author of several books, and has been a frequent guest on international television shows.

Catch him cooking at Sushi-Ya this weekend.



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HUMAN HINTS

Your Personal Time Machine Can Dissolve Your Mental Prison

We've all wished that we could go back in time and change things. We've done things we regret. We've unintentionally hurt others and ourselves. The energy of these experiences stays with us as guilt and regret, which become bricks in the mental prison we build around ourselves throughout our lives.

With every experience, we either grow or add to our prison wall, our Wall of Isolation. Adding to the wall is usually what people choose to do because it offers quick, easy, solid protection against pain. Unfortunately, the issue remains as guilt until you release it. The prison wall doesn't get rid of the issue, it only gives you the illusion that the issue is gone. It only hides you from the problem until you are completely obscured from your own life.

In order to release ourselves, we must dissolve the very reason we built the wall, and forgiveness dissolves guilt. When you forgive yourself for everything you've ever done, your prison wall disappears.

There are many ways to accomplish this. One method is to remember that the physical is just an illusion, so ultimately we don't really do anything because three dimensions aren't real from the point of view of Unity Consciousness. It also helps to remember that most encounters in our lives are pre-arranged beyond our awareness, so that each party can learn what they need to.

Remember that the point is to forgive yourself, so do this any way you can. When you release your guilt, you can grow and expand far more easily than when you're also dragging your past along with you. When you release all of your past, growth becomes effortless. The only reason it hurts to grow is because we hold on to who we used to be. We cling to the way we used to think about ourselves because it is a comfortable, familiar, easy habit.

Regret makes us want to go back and change the past, but our bodies can't go back in time. Luckily, they don't need to. Our mind is our built-in Time Machine. We can focus on any moment that we choose in the past, present and future.

In our imagination, we can change the energy that we contributed, and the energy of the interaction itself. We can imagine any interaction, with any outcome that we can think of. We get rid of the problem by changing the future, we change the future by changing the present, and one way to alter the present is to rethink the past.

Changing the past in your mind will cause you to remember it differently. Since the past exists only in our memory, changing our memory changes the past, literally and directly.

Your imagination will change the energy of your past. Your actions in the present will create your future by altering your past. When we act from the opposite polarity in the present, our physical actions nullify what we regret in the past.

Release your self by forgiving your self. Your present emotions, thoughts and actions alter the past while simultaneously creating your future.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Ayer acto conmemorativo en la Plaza de Bolívar

179 AÑOS DE LA TRANSICIÓN HACIA LA ETERNIDAD DEL LIBERTADOR SIMÓN BOLÍVAR



ORANJESTAD – Ayer el Consulado General de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Aruba organizó un acto conmemorativo en la Plaza de Bolívar con ocasión a los 179 años de la transición hacia la eternidad del Libertador Simón Bolívar. El acto estuvo presidido por la Cónsul General de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Dra. Bolivia Domínguez de Briceño, y contó entre otros, con la asistencia del Ministro Otmar Oduber, en representación del Gobierno de Aruba, y representantes del parlamento de Aruba; además de miembros del cuerpo consular acreditados en Aruba.

Durante esta ceremonia se le rindió tributo a la memoria y a la gran obra realizada por el prócer de la independencia de Venezuela, y de cuatro naciones

latinoamericanas más, por medio de ofrendas florales ante la estatua acuestre del Libertador Simón Bolívar. En el cuadro de esta ceremonia protocolaria, la diplomática Venezolana, Dra. Dominguez de Briceño, elaboró un elocuente discurso titulado: "Bolívar Vive", en el que expuso la vigencia del pensamiento bolivariano.

DISCURSO

En la introducción a su discurso, la Cónsul Domínguez de Briceño, recordó que ayer 17 de diciembre de 2009, todos los hijos de la Patria Grande de las seis naciones Bolivarianas, conmemoraron los 179 años de la transición hacia la eternidad del Libertador Simón Bolívar. Señaló que este es un día de reflexión para todos los pueblos oprimidos del planeta; y destacó

la figura del gran personaje de la historia latinoamericana, como la de "un hombre hecho a la imagen y semejanza de los pueblos de este lado del mundo: Intenso en la pasión, singular en el tesón y la temeridad, de una lucides suprema".

En estos días en que se celebra una reunión cumbre sobre los problemas que afectan al medio ambiente mundial, en la ciudad de Copenhague (Dinamarca), la diplomática aprovechó esta ocasión especial para destacar a Bolívar como una persona visionaria. En su discurso, la Cónsul Domínguez de Briceño dejó saber que Simón Bolívar sin ser un especialista en ciencias naturales, conocía bien el mundo de la naturaleza, ya que desde niño había estudiado la obra del abate Luche, cuyo título era "Espectáculo de la Naturaleza o Conversaciones acerca de la Historia Natural". En su alocución la diplomática hizo una reseña histórica de la importancia que para Simón Bolívar tenía la preservación de las riquezas y reservas naturales de estas tierras. "Simón Bolívar al percatarse de las grandes riquezas que encierran los bosques de la Gran Colombia, tanto en maderas para la construcción como en tintes, quinas y otras sustancias útiles para la medicina y el arte, consideró hacer un decreto sobre Medidas de Protección y



Mejor Aprovechamiento de la Riqueza Forestal de la Nación y la prohibición de sacar de los bosques maderas preciosas y de construcción. Este decreto fue promulgado en Guayaquil el año 1929. Acá se evidencia la certeza de Bolívar en el buen manejo y uso del recurso forestal, buscando mejorar la producción nacional y evitar la dependencia extranjera, siempre a favor del colectivo americano, de su ideal independentista". Y señala la Cónsul Venezolana con mucho acierto ya casi a final de su discurso: "Estamos hablando de la vigencia del pensamiento bolivariano que queda demostrado con este hecho que hace 200 años ya Bolívar preocupado por la educación ambiental había lanzado estos decretos, entre otros".

Para finalizar este acto conmemorativo de cara a los 179 años del fallecimiento de Simón Bolívar, el Consulado General de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Aruba organizó una recepción en la Casa de la Cultura.

THE SopranoS PIANO BAR

Monthly Newsletter

December 2009 - ARUBA

In December every Sunday is "The Sopranos go to Cuba" with Angelo providing the hot Latin sounds of the islands.

Cuba Libra's from 8:00pm to close at \$5.00 each.



Barry Rocklin

Barry Rocklin has been a mainstay on the international piano bar circuit for most of the past decade—between stints as musical director for renown musical productions from Miami to Montreal. Barry has journeyed from his home in suburban Boston to piano engagements at some of the world's finest piano bars and hotel lounges, including venues in Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, Japan, Iceland and Poland. And he is a favorite on board the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line.

Come join the Sopranos on Dec. 24th to celebrate our 5th year anniversary.

Celebration starts @ 6:00pm till close.

Drink Specials all night long, complementary snacks, midnight champagne toast



New Years Eve Party

Ring in the New Year with the Sopranos Crew.

Special opening hours 7:00pm.

Barry our piano man starts at 9:00pm until 1:00am.



MIDNIGHT CHAMPAGNE TOAST